

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 /073 W

----- 075902

R 281220Z APR 75

FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3335

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

CINCUSNAVEUR

COMNAVTELCOM

USCINCEUR

COMIDEASTFOR

NAVCOMMUNIT ASMARA

NAVCOMMSTA NEA MAKRI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASMARA 0440

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, ET

SUBJECT: ERITREA - MILITARY INCIDENTS

REF: A. USDAO ADDIS ABABA 251200Z APR 75

B. NAVCOMMU ASMARA 271400Z APR 75

C. NAVCOMMU ASMARA 271545Z APR 75

1. LOCAL SOURCES CONFIRM ATTACK BY ETHIOPIAN GROUND FORCES WITH AIR AND ARTILLERY SUPPORT AGAINST THE VILLAGE OF ADI GHEBRU (38 DEG. 47 FT EAST, 15 DEG. 20 FT NORTH), LOCATED APPROX 15 KLMS WEST OF ASMARA, ON 27 APR 75. ATTACK APPEARS TO BE REPETITION OF PREVIOUS EFFORTS PREVENT INSURGENTS FROM ESTABLISHING AND MAINTAINING SANCTUARIES IN VICINITY ASMARA.

2. A USUALLY RELIABLE SOURCE, WHO JUST RETURNED FROM VISIT TO MASSAWA, DISCUSSED EAF ATTACK ON SILVER FRUIT AND KHALEB
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WITH CONSOFF. SOURCE VISITED MASSAWA TO OBTAIN SEAMANS CERTIFICATE,

AND DURING COURSE OF VISIT SAW VESSELS AND DISCUSSED INCIDENT WITH MEMBERS OF ETHIOPIAN NAVY (EN). ACCORDING TO SOURCE, ELF MEMBER TELEPHONED EN THAT THE TWO VESSELS (SILVER FRUIT AND KHALEB) WERE ARMED AND DELIVERING MUNITIONS TO THE ELF. THE ELF MADE THE CALL TO CREATE CONFUSION, SINCE THEY WERE AWARE OF THE RESUPPLY MISSION OF THE KHALEB, TO GOV'T PERSONNEL IN OFF-SHORE ISLANDS. THE EN FIRED UPON THE SHIPS WITH PATROL CRAFT, WITHOUT ATTEMPTING TO BOARD AND SEARCH. THE SHIPS ATTEMPTED TO ESCAPE, WHEREUPON EN CALLED FOR EAF SUPPORT. AFTER 15 MINUTE SURVEILLANCE, EAF JETS COMMENCED TO STRAFE AND BOMB SILVER FRUIT AND KHALEB FOR ONE HOUR 45 MINUTES.

3. COMMENT: DETAILS OF SOURCES REPORT DIFFERS IN SEVERAL RESPECTS FROM REPORT OF INCIDENT IN REF A. HOWEVER, BOTH REPORTS CITE LACK OF ADEQUATE COORDINATION BETWEEN EN AND EAF, AND READINESS OF BOTH UNITS TO ATTACK TARGETS, BASED ON INADEQUATE INTELLIGENCE. SHERRY

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Message Attributes

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